

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 SSM-03 SAA-01 EB-08
COME-00 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15
L-03 H-01 OMB-01 AGRE-00 STR-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00
INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01 ICA-11 DOE-15 SOE-02 /138 W
-----062313 090323Z /62

R 071541Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4044
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 8588

BRUSSELS PASS USEEC

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, IS, GW, XF, US, PINT
SUBJECT: GENSCHER'S VISIT TO ISRAEL, JUNE 28 - 30

REF: BONN 11746 (NOTAL)

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: GENSCHER VISITED ISRAEL JUNE 28 - 30.
THE PRIMARY TOPICS OF DISUCSSION WERE ISRAEL-EC RELATIONS
AND THE CURRENT MIDDLE EAST SITUATION. GOI OFFICIALS
WERE CRITICAL OF CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT'S RECENT REMARKS CONCERNING
THE PALESTINIAN PROBLEM. GENSCHER ARGUED THAT
SCHMIDT'S REMARKS DID NOT SIGNAL ANY CHANGE IN FRG POSITION
ON THE ISSUE. THE SYRIAN-FRENCH ARMS DEAL AND ISRAELI
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CONCERN OVER A PERCEIVED LACK OF PROSECUTION OF SUSPECTED
NAZI WAR CRIMINALS WERE ALSO TOPICS OF DISCUSSION. END SUMMARY.

2. FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER RECENTLY COMPLETED A
TWO AND ONE-HALF DAY VISIT TO ISRAEL, JUNE 28-30,
AS PART OF AN ONGOING SERIES OF SENIOR LEVEL VISITS BETWEEN
THE TWO COUNTRIES. GENSCHER MET PRIVATELY WITH

PRESIDENT NAVON, SPEAKER OF THE KNESSET SHAMIR, PRIME MINISTER BEGIN, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER YADIN, FOREIGN MINISTER DAYAN, DEFENSE MINISTER WEIZMAN, FINANCE MINISTER EHRlich, INTERIOR MINISTER BURG, LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION PERES, MK ALLON, AND MAYOR OF JERUSALEM KOLLEK.

3. DURING THE DAYAN-GENSCHER MEETING, THE ISRAELI FOREIGN MINISTER EXPRESSED A DESIRE FOR CLOSER RELATIONS BETWEEN ISRAEL AND THE EC. DAYAN'S EMPHASIS WAS THAT GOI "NOT BE SURPRISED" BY EC DECISIONS OR ACTIONS. HOWEVER, MFA CLAIMS NO SPECIFIC REQUEST WAS MADE FOR A "SPECIAL STATUS" INVOLVING ANY "EARLY-WARNING SYSTEM" ON EC DECISION-MAKING PROCESS. ON THE POLITICAL SIDE OF THE ENLARGEMENT ISSUE, DAYAN AND BEGIN BOTH RAISED THE FACT THAT ISRAEL HAS NO DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH SPAIN AND LESS THAN FULL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH BREECE. GOI OFFICIALS NOTED HOPEFULLY THAT ENTRY OF THREE COUNTRIES WOULD BE PARTICULARLY OPPORTUNE TIME TO CORRECT THIS SITUATION.

4. GENSCHER INDICATED TO MFA OFFICIALS THAT THE FRG UNDERSTANDS ISRAEL'S CONCERN FOR ITS CITRUS FRUIT EXPORTS IN PARTICULAR AND WILL TRY TO FIND A SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM. HE PLEDGED THAT BOTH AS GERMANY'S REPRESENTATIVE AND A CHAIRMAN OF THE EC COUNCIL OF MINISTERS FOR TTHE NEXT SIX MONTHS, HE WOULD BE RESPONSIVE TO ISRAEL'S REQUESTS FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF "EQUILIBRIUM" BETWEEN MEDITERRANEAN
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FRUIT GROWERS.

5. THE ISRAELIS REPEATEDLY STRESSED THEIR IRRITATION WITH CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT'S RECENT STATEMENT DURING THE VISIT TO BONN OF SAUDI ARABIAN DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER CROWN PRINCE FAUD -- WHERE SCHMIDT SPOKE OF THE RIGHT OF PALESTINIANS "TO ORGANIZE THEMSELVES AS A STATE." GENSCHER STRESSED THAT SCHMIDT'S REMARKS DID NOT CONSTITUTE A NEW DECLARATION OF THE FRG CABINET POSITION. HE POINTED OUT THAT SCHMIDT'S STATEMENT WAS IN HARMONY WITH DECISIONS MADE BY THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL LAST YEAR ON THE MIDDLE EAST SITUATION. GENSCHER ADDED THAT HE BELIEVED ISRAELI PRESS REPORTS DISTORTED SCHMIDT'S COMMENTS, AND SAID THAT THE CHANCELLOR'S REMARKS MEANT THAT A POLITICAL SOLUTION SHOULD BE FOUND TO THE PROBLEM. THE PRECISE FORM OF THE POLITICAL SOLUTION, HOWEVER, MUST BE LEFT TO THE PARTIES TO NEGOTIATE. THE ISRAELI AUTONOMY PLAN, GENSCHER OBSERVED, WOULD QUALIFY AS A "STAATLICH" OR POLITICAL SOLUTION -- BUT HE CAREFULLY REFRAINED FROM EXPRESSING HIS OPINION OF THE AUTONOMY PLAN.

6. ANOTHER SUBJECT FREQUENTLY RAISED BY THE ISRAELIS WAS THE SYRIAN-FRENCH ARMS DEAL WHICH INCLUDES PARTS

JOINTLY PRODUCED BY FRANCE AND THE FRG. NAVON, SAID IT WAS NOT MERELY A POLITICAL PROBLEM BUT ALSO A MORAL QUESTION TO WHICH BONN MUST GIVE THOUGHT. GENSCHER REPLIED THAT ACCORDING TO THE GERMAN-FRENCH AGREEMENT, NEITHER COUNTRY MAY VETO ARMS EXPORT AGREEMENTS ENTERED INTO BY THE OTHER. HOWEVER, HE ASSURED THE MEMBERS OF THE ISRAEL-FRG PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE THAT THE FRG FOR ITS PART IS CONDUCTING A CAREFUL INVESTIGATION TO INSURE THAT IT DOES NOT SUPPLY ARMS TO AREAS OF TENSION. HE TOLD PRIME MINISTER BEGIN THAT THE EXPORT OF GERMAN-FRENCH MILAN MISSILES TO SYRIA IS SOLELY IN THE HANDS OF THE FRENCH, THEN WENT ON TO EXPLAIN THE IMPORTANCE OF GERMAN-FRENCH COOPERATION IN WEAPONS PRODUCTION FOR THE CONFIDENTIAL

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ACHIEVEMENT OF GREATER STANDARDIZATION WITHIN NATO. HE DID PROMISE THOUGH TO EXAMINE THE ISSUE AND TO TRANSMIT ISRAEL'S ANXIETY TO BOTH HIS OWN GOVERNMENT AND TO PARIS. SPEAKING TO REPORTERS JUNE 29, GENSCHER SAID HE IS AWARE THAT THE SUPPLY OF FRANCO-GERMAN ARMS TO SYRIA IS A QUESTION OF CONSCIENCE PAR EXCELLENCE AND HE WILL APPEAL TO FRANCE TO DESIST FROM SELLING ARMS TO AREAS OF CONFLICT.

7. YET ANOTHER SET OF ISSUES WHICH CONFRONTED GENSCHER SEVERAL TIMES DURING HIS VISIT WAS ISRAELI CONCERN OVER GERMAN ANTI-SEMITISM AND THE TRIAL OF SUSPECTED NAZI WAR CRIMINALS. PRESIDENT NAVON VOICED CONCERN OVER EXPRESSIONS OF ANIT-SEMITISM IN GERMANY AND OVER THE ATTITUDE OF GERMANS TOWARD NAZIS AND NEO-NAZIS. BEGIN REPORTEDLY RAISED THE ISSUE OF NAZI WAR CRIMES WHICH ARE SCHEDULED TO COME UNDER A STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS IN 1980. THE PRIME MINISTER ASKED THAT THE WAR CRIMES LAWS BE EXTENDED UNTIL THE YEAR 2000. GENSCHER TOLD BEGIN THAT THE STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS FOR NAZI CRIMES IS STILL UNDERGOING EXAMINATION. EVENTUALLY, HE SAID, EVERY NAZI CRIMINAL FOR WHOM A FILE HAS ALREADY BEEN OPENED WILL BE TRIED.

8. GENSCHER'S MEETINGS WENT LARGELY AS EXPECTED. A BOMB ATTACK, WHICH CLAIMED TWO LIVES AND INJURED FORTY-TWO OTHERS IN JERUSALEM SHORTLY BEFORE THEIR TALK BEGAN, OCCASIONED BEGIN TO DRAW ATTENTION TO THE DANGER WHICH WOULD ARISE FROM THE CREATION OF A PALESTINIAN STATE. UPON INFORMING GENSCHER OF THE BOMB BLAST MR. BEGIN REPORTEDLY SAID, "A PALESTINIAN STATE WILL ONLY LEAD TO SLAUGHTER AND BLOODSHED." "INFORMED SOURCES" DESCRIBED THEIR TALK TO THE JERUSALEM POST AS "CORRECT IF NOT OVERLY CORDIAL." IN CONTRAST TO THIS, GENSCHER HIMSELF REPORTEDLY SAID HIS CONFIDENTIAL

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MEETING WITH DAYAN WAS "A TALK BETWEEN FRIENDS."
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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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